

Maghreb ministers meet

RABAT (R) — Foreign ministers from the five North African states met in Rabat Monday to breathe new life into the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), which has been stalled by domestic problems in member states. Officials said their agenda included fixing a date and place for an AMU summit, which was originally scheduled to be held in Libya during the Gulf war but was postponed indefinitely. Mauritania was due to take over the rotating chairmanship from Libya this year. But because of domestic unrest, Mauritania asked Morocco to take over instead. The Casablanca daily *Al Bayan* said regional cooperation plans drafted by the AMU had been neglected since the union was formed in February 1989 because of pressures in Mauritania and Morocco against economic hardship. "Algeria and Tunisia have had to deal with a powerful upsurge of the (Muslim) fundamentalist phenomenon," the newspaper said. *Al Bayan* added that an important agenda item would be the holding of a Mediterranean conference between AMU member states and France, Italy, Portugal and Spain, as proposed by French President François Mitterrand during a recent visit to Tunisia. AMU members Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia plan to create a customs union and free market by the end of the century, similar to the European Community, by far the Maghreb's main trading partner.

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Hurd in Turkey for talks on Iraq

ANKARA (R) — Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd arrived in Turkey Monday for talks expected to cover Iraq and an allied rapid reaction force based in Turkey. Mr. Hurd was to hold formal talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray later Monday and meet Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz and President Turgut Ozal before leaving Tuesday. Bilateral relations and Cyprus are expected to figure on his agenda. His arrival follows a visit by U.S. President George Bush, who left Turkey earlier Monday. The two-day trip follows a visit by Mr. Hurd to Turkey in January that was cut short by an urgent European Community (EC) meeting on the Gulf crisis.

Kuwait refinery to restart next month

NICOSIA (AP) — Kuwait's Mina Al Ahmadi refinery, the least damaged of the emirate's four refineries, will be producing 90,000 to 100,000 barrels a day by the end of August, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday. Initial repairs on the facility, which had a pre-war capacity of 370,000 barrels a day, should be completed by early next month, the oil industry newsletter said. Kuwaiti newspapers reported July 10 that the government has a \$11 million contract with the Milan-based Petrochemical International Instruments Co. to repair and maintain electrical equipment at Mina Al Ahmadi. Starting up the damaged refinery again will provide products for domestic consumption, with some naphtha available for export. Mina Al Ahmadi is Kuwait's most modern refinery. The other refineries at Mina Abdullah, Mina Shuaiba and Mina Saad, were more seriously damaged in the war.

Powell in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — The superpowers' top military officers grinned and greeted each other warmly Monday when U.S. Chief of Staff General Colin Powell arrived at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport. Gen. Powell told reporters he and Soviet Gen. Mikhail Moiseyev were meeting "as friends and soldiers, committed to the security of our countries, and to peace. The more we talk to one another, the more we argue, the more we debate, the better off we are." Gen. Powell told reporters the weeklong visit would be his third meeting with Gen. Moiseyev in just two months. The visit is the latest in a series of formal exchanges of top military brass. It has been planned since Gen. Moiseyev took a similar tour of American bases in October. It is unrelated to next week's summit meeting between George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who will sign a treaty cutting long-range nuclear weapons.

Khartoum offers money to rebels who defect

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military government is trying to buy defectors from the ranks of southern rebels, a top official said. Colonel Mohammad Amin Al Khalifa, a member of the ruling junta, told reporters the government will pay up to 20,000 Sudanese pounds (\$1,665) as compensation to fighters who quit the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The money is to help the guerrillas re-integrate into society and find jobs. Col. Khalifa said at a Sunday night news conference.

Death rate from cholera reported highest in Africa

GENEVA (R) — Cholera sweeping through Africa is killing people at a much higher rate than in Latin America, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said Monday. The Geneva-based U.N. agency said the death rate in 10 affected African countries averaged six to 10 per cent and climbed as high as 30 per cent in some areas. By contrast, the average death in Latin America's current epidemic was two per cent.

Baker hopes Israel will accept plan; peace talks could begin in October

Shamir said to have given favourable assessment of U.S. proposal to cabinet

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. SECRETARY of State James Baker met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Monday and said afterwards that he hoped Israel would accept a Middle East peace conference proposal already accepted by Arab states.

According to Israeli Radio, Mr. Baker also told Mr. Shamir that there had been a "revolutionary" change in the attitude of Syria and that the Bush administration believed that if properly followed up a peace conference could be convened in Washington in October this year.

The Israeli cabinet met shortly after Mr. Baker and Mr. Shamir completed four hours of meetings over two days. No final decision was made on the Israeli response to the U.S. proposals for a peace conference, Israeli sources said.

Also, the Shamir aide said, "the central problem is the composition of the Palestinian delegation" that would attend peace talks.

Mr. Ahimeir said Israel is waiting for clarifications from the Americans concerning the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

Israel seeks to exclude Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem from the talks. In Mr. Shamir's view, their participation would cast doubt on Israel's claim to the Arab half of the city that Israel "annexed" after the 1967 war.

Mr. Shamir gave the cabinet a favourable assessment of the latest U.S. effort and Arab response, according to the sources. He referred to the position first

maybe don't want to see it. But the Syria of today apparently is a Syria that is developing. It has left behind the previous 'nos' and is entering the road to peace. It agrees today to direct talks without conditions and also without any promises behind our backs."

Following a 90-minute session with Mr. Shamir, Mr. Baker said the Israeli official had promised him an early answer on whether the Jewish state would endorse the U.S. proposal. The formula calls for Israel to negotiate directly with the Arabs on a settlement requiring Israel to relinquish territory in exchange for acceptance from the Arabs.

Israel Radio quoted Mr. Shamir as telling his cabinet that Mr. Baker believed that a peace conference could be convened in Washington in October if Israel agreed to the U.S. proposals.

Mr. Baker called on the Jewish state to seize an "historic opportunity."

Mr. Shamir's office also said a reply could come in days. "Baker was ... very cautious not to set any dates, any target dates, but I

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Iraq's oil production capacity reportedly rises to 1.45m bpd

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq's oil production capacity has reached 1.45 million barrels a day about two-fifths of its pre-war level, with some one million barrels available for export, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported.

But it quoted a United Nations report as saying that it will take \$6 billion and two years' work to restore Iraq's war-damaged oil industry to its pre-war level.

The respected oil industry newsletter quoted the report as saying the Iraqis believe they can boost production capacity to 1.6 million barrels a day by the end of the year.

The Oil Ministry believes the pre-war production level of 3.14 million barrels daily could be restored by mid-1992 if Iraq can obtain the equipment needed to carry out repairs, the survey quoted the report as saying.

Iraq's pre-war production

capacity was 3.5 million barrels daily.

Its oil installations, particularly refineries, petrochemical plants and pumping stations, were heavily damaged in allied bombing during the 43-day Gulf war.

The U.N. report, compiled by an investigative mission led by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, said that Iraqi expectations were "rather optimistic" and were unlikely to be met unless Baghdad was also allowed to import equipment for repairs.

The report said the U.N. team did not expect "a full rehabilitation of production capacity before the end of 1992 at the earliest" even if the Security Council lifts economic sanctions imposed last August and permits the Iraqis to import the necessary equipment.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar recommended Jan. 15 that Iraq should be

allowed to resume some oil exports for a limited period so that the United Nations can be paid for destroying the country's weapons of mass destruction under the terms of an April ceasefire.

Prince Sadruddin the same day issued a report in Geneva recommending that the ban on oil exports should be partially lifted so that Baghdad can earn revenue to buy urgently needed medicines and foodstuffs.

If Iraq was allowed to export one million barrels a day, it could earn an estimated \$5.5 billion in a year at current prices.

MEES said that even if Iraq was allowed to sell oil "which is far from certain, it would be some time before actual exports could begin."

The Americans and British

(Continued on page 5)

Resistance attacks SLA post

RASHAYA, Lebanon (AP) — Resident fighters infiltrated into Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon Monday and showered an outpost of Israeli-affiliated Lebanese militiamen with mortar fire amid heightening tension in the region.

Police said a casualty report was not available and the affiliation and number of the infiltrators was not known.

The attack on the South Lebanon Army (SLA) position in the village of Shatiyya occurred just after midnight (2100 GMT Sunday), police said. The fate of the guerrillas could not be determined.

Reporters, watching from high-lands, said they counted eight U.N. supervision, to sell some oil or use assets frozen abroad, to import food, medicine, agricultural items and equipment needed to restore war-damaged water, sewage, electrical, oil industry and communications facilities.

He said Iraq had the capacity to export about one million barrels of oil a day, enough to raise about \$5.5 billion to revenue over a year.

Committee members said Prince Sadruddin would probably also answer questions related to his report but that no decision

would be taken yet on whether to ease sanctions imposed on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait last August.

Iraq asked the committee earlier this month to let it sell \$1.5 billion worth of oil to buy food, medicine and agricultural items.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in a report last week, also recommended that Iraq be allowed to resume the sale of some oil to meet U.N. costs estimated at a minimum of \$200 million — of scrapping Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction in accordance with an April 3 Gulf war ceasefire resolution.

All Security Council ambassadors attended the closed briefing, so that the meeting

Prince Sadruddin did not comment as he entered the session, but had scheduled a news conference later Monday.

Western diplomats said they did not expect any easing of the oil embargo until Iraq has disclosed everything about its clandestine weapons programmes.

The five permanent Security Council members say Iraq must make a full disclosure by Thursday, but have not said what will happen if Iraq fails to do so. The five are the United States, Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union.

U.N. sanctions body hears report on plight of Iraqis

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council's Sanctions Committee was to bear a report Monday from U.N. envoy Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan on the worsening plight of Iraqi civilians but no immediate decision was expected on any easing of sanctions, committee sources said.

They said the committee, which met behind closed doors, would receive a first-hand briefing from Prince Sadruddin, the U.N. secretary-general's executive delegate for humanitarian operations in Iraq and the Gulf, on a report he issued in Geneva last Monday saying sanctions were causing Iraqis undue suffering.

Prince Sadruddin suggested Baghdad be allowed, under close U.N. supervision, to sell some oil or use assets frozen abroad, to import food, medicine, agricultural items and equipment needed to restore war-damaged water, sewage, electrical, oil industry and communications facilities.

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"I am confident that Turkey can rise to this challenge."

Palestinians want U.S. to acknowledge in public their right to self-determination

From Daoud Kattab in Jerusalem

PALESTINIAN

representatives who met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in his latest peace shuttle said Monday that they were demanding a public American acknowledgement of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Faisal Husseini, one of the three who met with Mr. Baker, told a press conference here that the group had asked "many questions of the Americans" and that the U.S. side "answered some in a negative way and others they have not answered."

Declining to reveal any details of the talks, Mr. Husseini said that "on the issue of Jerusalem, the Americans have told us that their position ... has not changed. They still consider East (Arab) Jerusalem to be

part of the occupied territories."

"The meeting with Mr. Baker was important and serious but we still believe that the Israeli position remains as the major obstacle," Mr. Husseini said.

Hanan Ashrawi, another member of the group which met Mr. Baker, said: "We carried out the meetings upon the request of the Americans and the consent of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation). We had a specific task to explore and not to negotiate. We have informed the PLO of the details of the talks and they have the power to make any binding decisions. It is up to the Israelis to make their positions clear. They have placed preconditions."

Asked what his response was to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement that

there is a revolutionary Arab position, Mr. Husseini said:

"The Arab position in favour of peace is not new. They had already supported back in 1988 the Palestinian peace initiative which was declared in the 19th session of the Palestine National Council."

"In order to go ahead we need clear and obvious answers to our questions," he added.

Ms. Ashrawi said: "Palestinian representation is an independent Palestinian decision not the subject of choice or veto by any other party. We know that the Americans prefer a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation we still prefer an independent delegation. But in case of a joint delegation we insist that our separate and independent national identity be preserved."

Asked what are some of the clear statement Palestinians would want from the Americans, Mr. Husseini said: "We need clear and public acknowledgement of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination."

Asked about the possibility of Jordan or Syria going alone, Mr. Husseini said: "It is a Palestinian problem and I can't imagine solving this problem without Palestinians."

Ms. Ashrawi responded to the same question: "It is a two-track approach and if one of the tracks is not working then the whole process will fail."

Asked to comment about the news that coincided with Mr. Baker's visit that four new settlements were being built, Mr. Husseini said: "This

(Continued on page 5)

Bush leaves Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — President George Bush's farewell address in Turkey Monday included new pledges of support for Ankara: A promise of more military assistance and \$1 million to help cope with Gulf war refugees.

Mr. Bush, at a brief airport departure ceremony, also made one last appeal for Turkey and Greece to resolve their 17-year-old dispute concerning Turkish occupation of part of Cyprus.

"If the wall in Berlin can fall to human brotherhood, so can ancient hatred on Cyprus," Mr. Bush said.

But Cyprus Monday joined Greece in rejecting a Turkish proposal backed by Mr. Bush for a four-party conference on the problem of the war-divided island (see page 2).

In his departure remarks, Mr. Bush said his administration planned to remain engaged in the search for a solution to the Cyprus dispute, working with Turkey, Greece and the Cypriot population in support of the negotiating effort led by the United Nations.

Mr. Bush also pledged to "stand side by side in maintaining our international force to preserve stability on your southeastern frontier." The comment referred to the allied rapid deployment force stationed on the Iraqi border in Turkey.

Turkish President Turgut Ozal thanked Mr. Bush for making the two-day visit and said it highlighted the "determination of our two countries to follow an ever-closer relationship."

At his last meeting Mr. Ozal over breakfast, Mr. Bush said, "I leave very optimistic about Turkey's future."

From across the table, Mr. Ozal said, "I am very much satisfied" with the outcome of the discussions with Mr. Bush.

Asked by reporters about Secretary of State James Baker's travels through the Middle East, Mr. Bush said, "From what we see, things seem to be going reasonably well."

Throughout his two-day trip to Turkey, Mr. Bush praised Mr. Ozal for Turkey's stalwart support in the Gulf war.

Rewarding Mr. Ozal for his solidarity, Mr. Bush pledged support for a package of 160 F-16 fighter jets to be built in Turkey.

Sources said the president would

Cyprus rejects Turkish proposal for peace talks

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus Monday rejected Turkish proposals backed by the U.S. for talks on the future of the divided island but said priority should be given to the substance of the dispute and not the procedure.

"We reject four-way talks," Cyprus government spokesman Aki Fantis said in response to pressure by Cypriot reporters.

U.S. President George Bush said in Ankara Saturday Turkey's proposal for four-way talks was "the best hope for peace and the best hope for a solution to the Cyprus problem."

Mr. Fantis said in a written statement: "As far as the four-way talks are concerned, I would like to repeat that our proposal still stands."

Cyprus has proposed bringing together the governments of Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, representatives of the Greek — and Turkish-Cypriot communities and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots want talks between Greece, Turkey and the two communities, but Athens and the Greek Cypriots fear this will imply recognition of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state.

"As we have always stressed, priority should be given not to the procedure but the substance of the Cyprus problem and especially for the Turkish side to respond with reasonable proposals on the questions put by the (U.N.) secretary general, more specifically on the issues of territory and the refugees," Mr. Fantis said.

Cyprus has been divided by barbed wire and minefields since Turkey invaded in 1974, after a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Turkey has about 30,000 troops

in the north, proclaimed a separate state in 1983 and recognised only by Ankara.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has been trying to restart talks which broke down last year.

Government sources said they were pleased Mr. Bush raised the Cyprus problem several times in Turkey and felt this was a vindication of the Greek-Cypriot position that Ankara holds the key to settlement.

"Mr. Bush urged Turkey to abandon its intransigent stand. He said the status quo is unacceptable, and that it is time for a solution. It has always been our position that Turkey is the key to a settlement," one government source told Reuters.

"We have to concentrate on the substance and not get carried away with discussing procedures which is exactly what Turkey wants."

Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş said the problem of the island "could not be solved with outside intervention and pressure."

"It is understood that the artificial storm created over the Bush visits to Athens and Ankara is over without any damage to the cause," he said in a statement.

Mr. Denktaş said Turkish Cypriots had been the victims of "injustice and discrimination" in the past.

"Turkish-Cypriots have had no guilt in the creation of the problem and its dragging on for so many years," he said.

EC loans

Cyprus is to receive European Community (EC) loans and aid worth 20 million European currency units (\$23.4 million), an official announcement said Monday.

Algerian justice minister resigns

ALGIERS (AP) — Justice Minister Ali Benfils has quit the government, reportedly in protest over army intrusion in law enforcement since a state of emergency was declared last month to curb militant Muslim fundamentalists.

President Chadli Benjedid's press office issued a communiqué Sunday announcing that Mr. Benfils had been "discharged from his functions for personal reasons."

But the independent newspaper *Al Watan* reported Monday that Mr. Benfils resigned in protest over the army's virtual seizure of the legal apparatus since Mr. Benjedid decreed the emergency June 5.

Al Watan said Mr. Benfils argued with Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali over "the manner in which justice is being directed. In the eyes of Mr. Benfils, it has become a bit too much the property of the army."

The communiqué Sunday said that Mr. Benfils had been replaced by lawyer Hamdani Benkheil on Mr. Ghozali's recommendation.

The army has carried out a bloody crackdown to stop street agitation by the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front. More than 50 people have been killed in clashes with security forces and 5,800 arrested.

The party's top leaders remain in custody at the military prison at Blida and have been charged by a military tribunal with fomenting armed rebellion.

The front had been staging strikes and violent demonstrations to demand early presidential elections and changes in the rules for legislative voting scheduled for June 27.

U.S. blocks British jets sale to Iran Air

NICOSIA (AP) — The United States has blocked the sale of up to 50 BAE 146 airliners to Iran by British Aerospace because Western hostages held by pro-Iranian extremists have not been freed, Flight International reported Monday.

The aviation weekly said in an article made available to the Associated Press in advance of publication that Washington was able to do so because the British-built aircraft contain U.S.-made components.

It avionics are produced by the Honeywell Corporation and its four turbofan engines are manufactured by Textron Lycoming.

U.S. trade sanctions imposed on Iran in 1979 prohibit supplying the Islamic republic with U.S.-made aviation equipment. Only aircraft built outside the United States which contain less than 20 per cent U.S.-made components can be sold to Tehran.

British authorities, who backed the British Aerospace deal, are angry at the U.S. move and have complained that Washington approved the sale of 12 Dutch Fokker 100 airliners to Iran last year.

The Dutch aircraft have few U.S.-built components. At least six have been delivered to Iran Air, the Islamic Republic's national carrier.

Flight International, published in London, quoted sources close to the negotiations between British Aerospace and Iran Air as saying the deal involves the purchase of an initial six BAE-146s with options on as many as 50 more.

The magazine said British Aerospace declined comment on the report. But aviation industry sources have been saying for months that the company was negotiating with Tehran on the sale.

Britain restored relations with Iran last September after an 18-month break. The United States broke off relations with Tehran in 1979 and they remain severed.

Flight International quoted a U.S. State Department spokesman as saying that Washington's decision to block the British deal reflected the "deep concern that even after a year of significant changes in the region, Iran has

not ended support for terrorism and the Western hostages have not been released."

"We do not favour normal political, commercial and diplomatic relations with Iran until the hostages are free and it has ended its support for terrorism."

There are 13 Westerners missing in Lebanon and most are believed held by Shiite factions.

The missing men comprise six Americans, four Britons, two Germans and an Italian.

The longest held is American Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press. He was kidnapped in Beirut March 16, 1985.

Under President Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Iranian government has been building bridges with the West and the republic's Arab neighbours to end the country's political isolation.

Mr. Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists, has indicated that he wants to end the long-running hostage drama so that with the west can be normalized. But his radical anti-Western rivals in Tehran oppose his policies.

Despite a significant drop in attacks by Iranian-linked Shiite groups over the last two years, Iran remains on the U.S. State Department's list of six states which sponsor "international terrorism." The others are Iraq, Syria, Libya, North Korea and Yemen.

The U.S. block on the British Aerospace deal will be a major blow to Iran Air, which has been seeking to rebuild and expand since the end of the 1980-83 war with Iraq.

It has been opening up new routes to Asia, Africa and Europe and seeks to increase its passenger traffic from five million a year to 8.8 million within five years.

Iran Air currently operates 32 airliners, including Airbus A300Bs and Boeing 747s and 707s bought before the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Iran Air tried last year to buy five or six Airbus jetliners built by a France-based European consortium. But that deal also fell foul of U.S. authorities because the aircraft's engines are American.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Sodomy convict thrown off cliff in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's Revolutionary Guards have executed a 21-year-old man convicted of sodomy and murder by throwing him off a mountain cliff, according to a report that reached Nicosia Monday. The Farsi-language daily, *Salaam*, reported July 2 that the man, whom it did not identify, had been sentenced to death by the Islamic court in the southeastern Kerman province. The court decreed that he would die the same way he killed his victims. The newspaper, which arrived in Nicosia three weeks late, did not say when the verdict was handed down or the execution took place. It said after sentencing, the convict was taken to a mountain "and pushed off the edge by Revolutionary Guards implementing the court decision." It said the man seized three boys aged 11 to 13 June 21. He sodomised them and then threw them off the Saheboozman Mountain in Kerman. One of the boys survived the fall to report the incident and press charges, the newspaper said. It did not identify any of the victims by name.

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Israelis oppose giving up Golan — po

The Jerusalem Post

THE PUBLIC is not ready to make territorial concessions in the Golan Heights for peace with Syria, according to a poll conducted by the Smith Research Centre last month.

According to the poll, which asked 1,100 Jews between 12-23 if "in order that there be peace with Syria, are you ready for territorial concessions on the Golan Heights?" the responses were as follows:

Ready to give up all the Golan Heights on condition that their real peace and security guarantees for Israel seven per cent.

Ready to give up part of the Golan Heights on condition that there be real peace and security guarantees for Israel: 28 per cent.

Today, not ready to make territorial concessions for peace on the Golan Heights: 57 per cent.

Other, no opinion: eight per cent.

More than 70 per cent of supporters of the right and the religious parties are not ready to make territorial concessions for peace with Syria.

On the left, more than 70 per cent of supporters of the Citizen Rights Movement, Mapai and Shimi favor giving back at least part of the Golan Heights for peace with Syria, while 54 per cent of Labour backers support the idea.

Nearly two-thirds of Jews originating from Islamic countries, a half those with origins in Europe, oppose these territorial concessions, while more than two-thirds of the younger voters (aged 12-29) are opposed.

Hassan II says France should impose quotas on immigrants

PARIS (AP) — Morocco's King Hassan II said Monday that France should impose quotas by nationality and by profession to limit the number of immigrants from his country and elsewhere.

The king, in a rare hour-long interview with five French journalists, also said France should not try to integrate immigrants into its society, because this would simply increase the flow of arrivals from abroad.

The interview was shown Sunday evening on France's most-watched channel, TF1, at a time when immigration has become the number one topic of political debate.

An estimated 30 to 40 percent of France's 5 million immigrants are from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.

King Hassan said he disagrees with those in France, including President Francois Mitterrand, who propose that immigrants be given the right to vote in local elections.

M. Mitterrand, in a television interview last week, also said in opposition to quotas on immigrants.

Hez-e-Islami is the most anti-American of the seven major groups in Pakistan. Until recently, it received the bulk of the estimated \$2 billion in U.S. military aid provided during the 13-year war against government in Kabul.

Despite its anti-U.S. rhetoric, it was considered the most capable militarily.

But Washington started to cut off the weapons pipeline as the group's stand became increasingly anti-American. The rhetoric peaked during the Gulf war when the party's outspoken leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, offered to send his guerrillas to fight Western forces in the region.

King Hassan invited French business executives whose firms were struggling financially to France to relocate in Morocco. He suggested that tax breaks and other incentives could be provided.

King Hassan, interviewed at his palace at Skirat in Morocco, took a bared line when asked about a jailed political dissident, Abraham Serfaty, who is believed to be one of the oldest political prisoners in the world.

Afghan rebels claim new battle victory

PESHAWAR (AP) — Guerrillas said they captured a strategic town on the Afghan-Soviet border Sunday, their second major battlefield victory in less than a week.

A spokesman for the guerrilla commanders' supervisory council said the town of Ishkashim in northeastern Badakh

Crown Prince and other officials meet OIC chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Hassan Monday, received the secretary general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamid Al Gabid.

Prince Hassan stressed in the meeting the importance of Islamic dialogue and the need to achieve active solidarity among Muslim nations in a manner that will serve the interests of all Arabs and Muslims.

Prince Hassan and Dr. Gabid discussed the role of the OIC in the convergence of views among the organisation's member states.

Dr. Gabid was earlier received by Prime Minister Taher Masri.

Both meetings were attended by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour, who also held talks with Dr. Gabid.

Dr. Ensour and the OIC chief discussed issues of concern to the Islamic world, particularly the Palestinian cause and the situation in the region as well as the role of the OIC in enhancing joint Islamic action and promoting cooperation among the organisation's member states.

Dr. Gabid left Amman for Damascus Monday evening, ending a two-day official visit.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Gabid expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his talks with His

Majesty King Hussein, the Crown Prince, Mr. Masri, Dr. Ensour and the speakers of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament. He described his talks in Amman as "frank, constructive and useful."

He said King Hussein and the Jordanian officials he met stressed their support to the OIC until it achieves its legitimate aspirations, particularly resolving the Palestinian problem.

Dr. Gabid said King Hussein responded positively to the OIC's efforts aiming at building bridges of confidence and uniting the ranks among Islamic states.

Officials in Jordan, he said, had affirmed their support to the OIC's future conferences, including the Islamic Conference of the members' states' ministers of foreign affairs to be held in Istanbul Aug. 3 and the Islamic states' summit to be held in Senegal later this year.

The Jordanian officials voiced their hope that those two conferences will be a good venue for holding dialogue and that they would form a new starting point for joint Islamic action," he said.

Dr. Gabid called on all OIC member states to help the organisation in its reconciliatory efforts and to provide all the facilities to it to enable it to achieve its message in serving Islam and Muslims.

Investors flood industrial cities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Sahab Industrial City near Amman and the Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid are witnessing a growing demand by investors seeking to establish new industrial projects after a break of several months of stagnation because of the Gulf war.

Last February, in the wake of the Gulf war, the JIEC said that the crisis had frozen all applications and inhibited investors. Some officials put the Sahab Industrial City's losses due to a halt in exports at JD 100 million.

Dr. Suheimat told Petra that the Sahab Industrial City's buildings have all been rented and used by industrial investors, but the JIEC was setting up new spaces and factories on different areas to be leased or sold to investors.

Referring to the Al Hassan Industrial City of Irbid, Dr. Suheimat said that during 1991 four new industrial investment projects had been started in the city to produce processed food, detergent and other products. He estimated the total amount of capital invested at JD 800,000.

According to Dr. Suheimat, there are a total of seven industrial projects in the Al Hassan Industrial City with a total capital of JD 2 million, creating jobs for 300 workers. The JIEC, he said, has provided the necessary infrastructure, thus paving the ground for industries to commence production within a short time.

The Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid was built recently on 42 dunums of land and has facilities for 80 factories and other businesses.

projects for the production of electrical appliances, home appliances, sanitary products, computer paper rolls, plastic pipes, metal, food and textile products.

The announcement was made by Minister of Youth Saleh Isheidat shortly before his de-



SECRETARY DAY — Hotel Jordan Intercontinental held its annual Secretaries Day Sunday to honour secretaries working for a number of private and public organisations. The secretaries were treated to a lunch at

the hotel's swimming pool that was attended by businessmen, journalists and prominent officials. Hotel Manager Majeed Khalil welcomed the guests and distributed awards to a group of secretaries.

Jordan to propose establishment of a pan-Arab youth commission

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's delegation to the Arab Ministers of Youth meeting due to open in Cairo Wednesday plans to submit a working paper calling for the creation of a pan-Arab youth commission to be charged with the task of supporting national teams, establishing sports installations and facilities and taking other measures designed to promote youth and sports activities in the Arab World.

The announcement was made by Minister of Youth Saleh Isheidat shortly before his de-

niture for the Cairo meetings Monday at the head of an official Jordanian delegation.

The conference will address the basic task of reshaping inter-Arab relations in youth and sports fields with a view to directing them in a manner that would reflect most positively on the Arab World's youth and sports activities, the minister said in a statement.

During the three-day meetings a number of topics will be discussed, including the formation of an

inter-Arab Youth Federation and the coming pan-Arab sports activities.

The establishment of a special fund to finance youth and sports installations and ways to stimulate sports events in the Arab World are also on the agenda, the minister said.

Dr. Isheidat, who is accompanied by a five member team from his ministry, said that he will discuss ways to increase exchanges of youth and sports expertise among Arab countries.

PSD foils another drug smuggling attempt

AMMAN (J.T.) — For the second time in as many months, the Public Security Department (PSD) announced that its border police have foiled a series of drug trafficking attempts across the border with Jordan's neighbours.

A PSD spokesman was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that border police units foiled attempts to smuggle 335 kilograms of hashish.

The haul was on its way into the Kingdom from a neighbouring Arab state, the spokesman said. He did not disclose the country the hashish was coming from.

Border units backed by police helicopters foiled a major drug trafficking operation last month.

seizing 800 kilograms of hashish and arresting the smugglers.

PSD Director Fadel Ali said his units were trying to combat drug trafficking by all means at their disposal.

Major General Ali paid tribute to the PSD units for their efforts in combating smuggling in general and drug trafficking in particular.

Last year, the PSD said 135 drug trafficking cases were recorded and 342 persons involved in the operations were arrested. In the first six months of 1991, a total of 80 cases have been handled, with the police arresting 80 people involved in the illicit business, Maj.-Gen. Ali.

Maj.-Gen. Ali told Petra that the PSD units were quite ready to foil drug trafficking operations across the border from any country.

Officials close to final decision on establishing glass company in Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordao Glass Industries Company (JGIC) has shortlisted four offers from foreign firms to establish a plant to manufacture glass bottles and domestic utensils and is expected to finalise its plans in two weeks time.

Farhi Obeid, chairman of the company, said three of the offers were strictly technical while the fourth included a proposal for the supplier of equipment to take a 50 per cent equity in the project.

"We are continuing discussions with the various parties, including some of our potential consumers in Jordan, and we hope to come up with a final decision in two weeks," Mr. Obeid told the Jordan Times.

JGIC will present its proposals to Yemenis, with whom it has been involved in discussions to set up a joint venture glass plant, and it is possible that part of the proposed production facility will be set up in Yemen, Mr. Obeid said.

"If (the Yemenis) are interested in the proposal, they will be welcome to come in," he said. "If not, we are going ahead on our own since we are convinced that there is an urgent need for a plant to produce glass bottles and

utensils in Jordan."

Mr. Obeid said that the idea of such a plant was contemplated in the mid-80s but was shelved in 1985 because of financial problems.

"But the idea was revived in 1989 in view of the (decline) in the value of the dinar and the rising prices of aluminium — which have gone up by three times — as an alternative to glass," he said.

Mr. Obeid declined to reveal the estimated cost of the project but said initial plans call for a production capacity of 20,000 tonnes with an annual output of 15,000 tonnes of bottles for soft drinks, pharmaceuticals, household utensils and containers for cosmetics.

Close to 80 per cent of the raw materials will come from Jordan, he said. Silicate, the main component in the glass industry, is available in Jordan in abundance. The plant's requirements of sodium carbonate are also expected to be satisfied locally.

Noting that the JGIC has ample experience in production, Mr. Obeid said: "We have the raw materials, we have the expertise and we have the personnel."

The new plant is expected to create employment opportunities for 150 to 200 graduates of technical schools, he said.

Seminar explores causes and effects of Gulf war

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on the causes and results of the Gulf crisis was opened in Amman Monday.

Participants in the three-day seminar discussed three working papers dealing with the Gulf crisis, the role of the media in the Gulf war and the role of the public during the war.

The first paper, which was presented by the assistant secretary general of the International Islamic Popular Leadership Organisation, Ibrahim Al Ghuweil, said the Gulf war revealed the tampering with Arab wealth

and the injustice lying in the distribution of the Arab and Muslim wealth.

The war, Mr. Ghuweil said, has uncovered the determination of certain powers not to allow the Arabs and Muslims to free themselves from an unjust world order.

Another paper on the role of the media in the Gulf war was presented by former Minister of Information Marwan Duhun. Mr. Duhun said the Gulf war has affirmed the Western media's domination of information sources and the West's exploita-

tion of the media to propagate the image they want to themselves to gain internal and external support.

A third paper presented by Lower House of Parliament member Laith Shubaelat said the Gulf war "was a difficult test to the regimes, public institutions and the individual."

Mr. Shubaelat said the war revealed the shameful situation of the public institutions in the Arab World and the variation in public opinion from one Arab state to another.

NAF flooded with economic aid requests as conditions of poor families in Kingdom worsens

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Aid Fund (NAF), which offers assistance to the needy in Jordan, has lately been receiving huge numbers of applications for assistance by poor families in the Kingdom, according to NAF Director General Farouk Badran.

The sharp increase in the number of poor families requesting aid is largely due to the difficult economic circumstances prevailing in Jordan, said Mr. Badran in a statement during a meeting with Minister of Social Development Awni Al Basir and other officials.

Mr. Bashir said his ministry

plans to encourage the work of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), which also offers assistance to the poor and runs vocational training centres for the handicapped, and will give more attention to the needy people in various settlements in the provinces.

The minister, who was chairing a meeting for the directors of the ministry's departments in various governorates, said that the director's views were of paramount importance to him as they provide valuable information about the situation in various regions.

What GUVS is doing is of great significance to Jordanian society because its activities benefit the poor and the needy, the minister said.

A sum of JD 40 is given to each needy family every month from the NAF. The fund also offers lump sums to poor families who suddenly lose their main wage earners and also offer loans to heads of poor families opening a business in order to become self-supportive.

The NAF draws its funds from the treasury and contributions to finance its projects.

Education minister severely criticises private school practices

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat has stressed the need for raising the standard of teachers in private schools and granting them full rights like their colleagues in the government schools.

Should these teachers be deprived of their rights, their performance at schools would be adversely affected, he said.

The minister was addressing a meeting by directors of various private schools in the Amman region gathered at the Princess Alia School for Girls.

The process of providing the teachers with proper qualifications is of paramount importance and cooperation and coordination among the private schools and the Ministry of Education is essential, the minister said.

In his address, the minister reviewed a number of excesses by private schools, especially in matters related to school fees, extra fees exacted from students during the school year, charges for foreign books, special uniforms for trips and ceremonies.

Such a behaviour affects the family budget and can only deflect the school from its original mission of education, the minister said.

Numerous columnists in the local press have been writing about the complaints of parents whose sons and daughters get education at private schools in Amman. The complaints mostly focus on the question of excessive fees such schools charge and which continue to increase every year.

Dr. Dahiyat said that a number of private schools tend to impose severe pressure on teachers working for them such as delaying the payment of their salaries during the summer vacation or increasing their volume of work.

The minister accused some of the schools of deviating from the educational purpose for which they had been established, especially in matters such as controlling students attendance and the length of the school period.

Discussion at the meeting covered the general conditions of the teachers in private schools. The minister promised that private school teachers would be covered by the ministry's on-the-job training programme.

Ajloun mukhtars meet PSD officials, discuss gun firings during weddings

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Village headmen (mukhtars) in the Ajloun District had a meeting in Amman Monday with the Public Security Department (PSD) Director Fadel Ali and senior officers to discuss security and peace in their region following incidents during which weapons were fired heavily in area towns and villages.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the PSD chief and the mukhtars discussed cooperation to ensure continued security and stability in the region of Ajloun in the north of Jordan.

Petra quoted the mukhtars as paying tribute to the PSD for its services to citizens in the Ajloun District and in stemming what they called harmful habits which normally result in misfortunes.

For example, firing of arms during weddings and in rejoicings over other events and occasions is strictly banned in Jordan due to the heavy loss of life — resulting from this tradition.

PSD records show that 312 cases of gunfire occurred in 1990.

while 224 such cases were reported in 1989, accounting for the death of 27 people and the injury of 211 others. According to these records, 84 of the cases occurred during weddings.

Reports in the daily press said that nine mukhtars in the Ajloun district were imprisoned for one night earlier this month at the local police station for their failure to reveal the names of those who fired arms during weddings and other occasions, this summer, including the announcement of the new government of Prime Minister Taher Masri.

According to these reports, the mukhtars refused to comply, saying only that it was not their duty to do that.

Sources told the Jordan Times that the mukhtars complained to Minister of Interior Jawad Esboul about their detention and submitted their resignations, only to withdraw them later after the intervention of concerned government departments and prominent personalities.

The case of the nine mukhtars was raised by three deputies from the northern constituencies in their addresses to Parliament last week just before the vote of confidence in the government was taken.

The deputies urged the government to find a solution to the problem of the firing of arms other than detaining village headmen.

The mukhtars were held responsible by the police for any firing during weddings and other events in their district and were told to prevent this bad habit, but firing continued, according to the reports.

Informants told the Jordan Times Monday that the police are now demanding that all printing presses around the Kingdom provide the police with a copy of invitation cards for weddings so that the bridegroom can be called in and warned that legal measures against him and his family would be taken should firing occur during the wedding.

The sources said that the police opted for this measure as an alternative to detaining the mukhtars and in the wake of press reports, comments by columnists and the deputies' speeches in Parliament.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Sultan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Sultan Qaboos Ibn Saeed of Oman to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Oman's Al Nahda-day anniversary. King Hussein voiced pride in the brotherly relations binding Jordan and Oman and wished Sultan Qaboos good health and happiness and the Omani people further progress and prosperity.

Prime Minister meets association presidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Taher Masri received Monday the presidents of the Jordanian Professional Associations and discussed with them the role of their associations in serving Jordanian society. Mr. Masri also reviewed with the presidents the government's policy statement presented to the Lower House of Parliament recently and the implementation of His Majesty King Hussein's directives calling for supporting the professional associations to enable them to achieve their goals. The meeting also discussed the issue of lifting martial law and guaranteeing the freedom of the press and public freedoms.

Jordanian-Italian relations discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabariti received Monday the Italian ambassador to Jordan, Francesco de Courten, and discussed with him cooperation between Jordan and Italy. The two also discussed the protocol signed between the governments of the two countries and Italy's support for Jordan in the fields of tourism and antiquities. Also discussed at the meeting was the issue of establishing a mosa

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Terrified of peace

PUBLIC OPINION polls are a funny thing. At best they are not indicative of the real feelings of the public, but rather a reflection of what the establishment, and especially the media, feed people with. The Israeli newspaper, the Jerusalem Post, yesterday ran the results of an opinion poll on Israelis' response to giving up the Golan Heights back to Syria in exchange for peace. According to the Post, the poll was conducted last month!

Asked if they were ready to give up the occupied Golan Heights "on condition that there is real peace and security guarantees for Israel," seven per cent of the Israelis said yes and 57 per cent said no. Those ready to give up part of the area for peace amounted to 28 per cent while those who had no opinion were eight per cent. Among religious parties, the rejectionists stood at 70 per cent.

Although the Gulf war demonstrated, in the opinion of U.S. leaders, that with missiles there are no secure borders, the Israeli establishment has for more than two decades now justified its "annexation" of the Golan with security reasons. Unlike the West Bank and Gaza, where Israel claims "God-given rights," the Golan Heights were portrayed by the Israeli establishment as being vital to the "security" of the Jewish state. This has been the line of both Israel's right and left. We are not, therefore, surprised at the results of the poll. The Israeli public, like their patrons in the U.S., are being brain-washed by their militant leaders into believing that only more Arab territory will guarantee their security. Would they occupy Iraq and Algeria when missiles are launched from that far to feel secure in what they claim is their "promised land"? With leaders like Ariel Sharon and Yitzhak Shamir, shall we expect a softer line from the Likud? Of course we do not. Soon the Jerusalem Post will come out with a similar poll over the fate of the West Bank and Gaza and we will not be surprised by the results. If the top leadership of Israel is adamant on its hold on the occupied territories, we will surely see an increased tilt towards more Israeli public intransigence. If anything, the poll clearly demonstrates that Israel, led by Mr. Shamir and Mr. Sharon, is not ready for peace. On the contrary, the poll provides ample proof that Israel not only does not want peace but is absolutely terrified of such a thought. And the longer they persist in their path, the sooner the region will explode into war and turmoil. And Israel will find once more that land does not guarantee security. Security can only be guaranteed by the goodwill of people, and especially those who lead them.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The United States' current drive to bring about peace to the Middle East region is a golden opportunity for Washington to prove its credibility and prove wrong the Arab countries' belief that the U.S. administration is adopting a double standard and constantly deceiving the Arabs, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The paper said that the Arabs would like to be optimistic and hopeful about the U.S. moves, but they would also like to reaffirm their optimism with concrete results. The U.S. moves come close on the heels of a U.S.-led aggression on the Iraqi people and amidst continued threats to Iraq and constant U.S. support for the Israeli authorities to maintain their hold over the occupied Arab territories, the paper noted. But still the Arabs can be proved wrong in their belief that the U.S. is adopting a double criteria if the United States is genuinely working towards establishing peace based on justice and the international legitimacy. The paper said that the United States can uphold the U.N. Security Council resolutions and the international legitimacy and pressure Israel into succumbing to the world community's will and give up the occupied lands in exchange for peace. Unless the U.S. administration does something concrete in this respect and unless peace based on justice is achieved, the Middle East region is bound to remain prone to further violence and upheavals, endangering world peace the paper warned. It said that the present chance is for Washington to pressure and not to support Israel so that peace can be achieved.

Tackling the same topic, Sawt Al Shabab daily said that the Arabs have now offered every possible concession to the Israelis for the sake of achieving a just peace based on international legitimacy and for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. The paper said that the Arabs have accepted an end to the boycott of Israeli goods, if Israel agrees to stop building settlements on occupied Arab land. In the light of the five visits to the region by the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the U.S. administration and the whole world must know by now that it is Israel which is intransigent and that the Shamir government is not showing any cooperation with the U.S. or the U.N. in order to help the establishment of peace, said the paper. Mr. Baker himself has praised Jordan, Egypt and Syria for their cooperation and said that their attitude was very encouraging and conducive to peace, unlike Israel's stand, the paper noted. It said that Mr. Baker's mission in Israel is the most difficult one in view of Israel's obstinate stand and it is hoped that the U.S. will do all it can to see the international legitimacy implemented and not to lose this opportunity of achieving peace between Israel and its neighbours.

The crisis in Algeria: what chance democracy?

By Tom Porteous

THERE are no easy ways out of Algeria's present impasse — the result of the collapse of the old system and the inability of the regime to introduce a new one which does not carry the long-term risk of transferring power from the political elite to Muslim fundamentalists. Behind this crisis lie economic and social problems to which there are no obvious solutions, a political infrastructure rotten to its roots and an acute crisis of cultural identity in a fast changing world.

Who holds power in Algeria? Who is going to hold it in six weeks' or in six months' time? President Chadli may still be at the helm, but the rudder has come adrift. The regime's main ballast and only remaining source of legitimacy is the democratic process launched by the president in the wake of the riots of October 1988. But this process is now seriously endangered, to say the least. And the fundamentalists have moved swiftly to exploit this situation, demonstrating not only their own strength on the streets, but also that — until genuinely free elections can be held — the army is the only prop to a totally discredited regime and perhaps the only obstacle to the establishment of an Islamic state. Hence the importance of the question of the army's loyalty to the regime.

The regime's haphazard reaction

Desperate to hold onto its economic and political privileges, the regime has reacted to the crisis in a haphazard and contradictory fashion. The "reformist" government of Mouloud Hamrouche was quickly sacrificed to the fundamentalists after the first outbreak of violence in early June. Mr. Hamrouche was supported by the French, but accused by

many within his party of having "sold out" economically to the West and of having rigged the election laws and lists in order to fill the National Assembly with his own clients. The manner of the removal of Mr. Hamrouche and his clan from power bore all the marks of a mini-coup within the regime supported by the military. This impasse was reinforced by the declaration of a state of siege and the appearance of the army on the streets in force to impose order and suppress the fundamentalists. At the same time there were reports of negotiations between conservatives in the regime and the FIS leadership. These reports led some liberals in the secular opposition to speculate that conservatives and fundamentalists could be plotting to overturn the democratic process and share power between them.

However the appointment of a fairly neutral prime minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazali, to form a "non-partisan" government, and the resignation of Mr. Chadli from the head of the National Liberation Front (FLN), did seem to indicate a recognition somewhere in the leadership that the democratic process was vital to the stability of the country and the legitimacy of the regime. Mr. Chadli's departure from the party leadership and the formation of Algeria's first non-FLN government since 1962 could herald the dismemberment of the party which has served as the power base of successive Algerian regimes, but which is now riven by internal factions and fully discredited by corruption and failure. In any case these moves complete the break with the past.

Ostensibly, Mr. Ghazali's government of technocrats and the new look president "of all Algerians" have the difficult task of restoring order, fixing a new date for elections and keeping the

floundering economy afloat until an elected government can take over. But the new government also looks very much like a facade to gloss over the fairly brutal suppression of the FIS with which the regime hopes to force its way out of the present political impasse.

The regime's management of the crisis may be sufficient to maintain a fragile social peace in Algeria. But for how long? The regime has shown it is ready to use force and has arrested thousands of fundamentalist militants, including the movement's leaders, in an effort to break its back. But the FIS too is becoming more assertive and confident in its strategy of increasing and reducing the tension on the streets to suit its political aims. And while the regime's options are limited and it has to act quickly to restore durable stability, the FIS has plenty of room for manoeuvre, nothing to lose from the present instability and time very much on its side.

Social and economic crises

The social and economic crisis which explains much of the popularity of the fundamentalist movement shows every sign of worsening in the short term at least, with Algeria unable to exploit its considerable mineral, agricultural and human potential to the full. The country is caught up in a spiral of decline all too familiar in the Third World; partly the result of the corruption, incompetence and mismanagement engendered by three decades of one-party rule, partly the result of the policies of the industrialised nations which each year take 75 per cent of Algeria's export earnings as service payments on a \$25 billion debt. The principle victims of this combination are a huge mass of young, unemployed and frustrated Algerians.

Since the FIS proved the broad popularity of its appeal by sweeping to power in most local governments at municipal elections a year ago, the party's incompetent and corrupt management of local affairs has alienated a fair number of its supporters. But there is little evidence to suggest, as the media have done, that the FIS has also lost out from the latest

violence. On the contrary it may have recovered some of its lost ground, because it is seen by many as the victim of the heavy-handed and repressive tactics of the regime. Although it is said that the FIS has lost the support of Saudi Arabia since it sided with Iraq in the Gulf war, it still probably gets funds from private Saudi benefactors and now has considerable backing from local businessmen who out of faith or opportunism are putting their money — or some of it — on an Islamic future. With many signs pointing to an all out confrontation between the FIS and the regime, an important unknown in the band of the FIS is how much support it enjoys in the army.

The opposition's weaknesses

The FIS has cleverly exploited not only the weaknesses of the regime, but also those of the rest of the opposition, a medley of so-called "moderate Islamists" ranging from "moderate Islamists" to "Trotskyists." The strongest of these parties are the liberal centrist RCD and Hocine Ait Ahmed's FSS, but like the rest, they are badly organised, ill-financed, ill-profiled and incapable of forming a common front, in spite of their common purpose of opposing both the FIS and the regime. The FFS and the RCD both enjoy solid support among the Berber minority, but this has also hindered them in presenting themselves as national parties. Worse, in their fear of the FIS and the prospect of an Islamic state, they have shown themselves prepared not to ask too many embarrassing questions about the regime's suppression of the fundamentalists. This is seen by many Algerians as a vindication of the FIS' claims that they are aligned closely behind the odd regime and that their secular and democratic positions and

programmes are anti-Islamic, Western oriented imports. Part of the FIS strategy has been to discredit the very concept of democracy as something alien and unsuitable to Algeria, and this cleavage between the Islamists and the democrats is potentially one of the most explosive ingredients of the present crisis — especially if it becomes superimposed on ethnic divisions between Arabs and Berbers.

Mr. Ait Ahmed claims that a silent majority of Algerians are fed up with both the regime and the FIS and are just waiting to express this in general elections by voting for his FFS. True or not, liberal democrats like Mr. Ali Ahmed have the disadvantage of being excluded from the political process in the coming crucial months, and may well have to wait for a long time for genuinely free elections.

Although the regime remains under considerable pressure to stick to the democratic option, it is difficult to see how it can hold credible elections that will satisfy the country and restore durable social peace after the hard-line clamp-down on the fundamentalists which is now under way. With its leaders incarcerated and its headquarters occupied by the security forces, the FIS is temporarily inconvenienced. But with its popularity intact and its image as the only effective opposition to the bad and faltering old regime strengthened, the FIS remains the enfant terrible of Algeria. And if it is not permitted to test its popularity at the polls, it is clearly ready to try its luck at the barricades — a move which could quickly bring on a civil war, or a military dictatorship, or both. Algeria looks as though it is losing its grip on the only peaceful solution to the crisis: democracy — Middle East International, London.

This is not hell

By Dr. John Habgood

The following article, by the Archbishop of York, is reprinted from *The Independent*.

HELL is full of surprises. I am not just thinking of the surprise of the goats in Matthew 25 v44, wondering what they had done to deserve their separation from the sheep and consignment to eternal fire. The surprises I have in mind spring from a more mundane judgement, in fact from judgement on a modest essay on Hell I wrote last month for my diocesan newspaper.

A correspondent had asked me for an article because one of the damaging experiences of his youth had been the teaching of the sect to which he then belonged, that "eternal conscious punishment was for all unbelievers." Subsequently I had an even more powerful letter from a mother whose distressed daughter-in-law had been told by her clergyman that her stillborn child must inevitably go to Hell for eternity because it was unheavenly.

He had thought that these were present-day theological platitudes.

Hence the surprise when sections of the media went berserk. Everybody wanted interviews. I was even invited to appear on Newsnight.

"Traditional pictures of Hell owe more to mistranslations, to later interpretations, to medieval excesses, to poets such as Dante and Milton, and above all to the failure to grasp the full implications of salvation, than to the original Scriptures and to early Christian teaching."

The Daily Telegraph claimed that its readers had a particular interest in Hell, and then produced both a leading article and an item in its gossip column. The editorial contained a curious reference to the idea of a "physical hell," thereby subscribing to the double error of supposing that anything that is not physical is not objective, and anything that is not objective is not real. For all its pious tone it was peddling old-fashioned materialism.

The Yorkshire Post fell into the same trap the other way round, in supposing that if Hell is self-created it must be "all in the mind," and to that extent unreal and insignificant. Both showed an alarming capacity to handle the notion of spiritual reality, the inner reality of persons, and by implication the reality of God. Part of the evangelical task of Christians, therefore, must be to rehabilitate the language in which such matters may be sensibly discussed.

A small army of correspondents divided themselves between appreciation and denunciation, some of the latter showing a particular interest in my own ultimate fate. Critics on the whole were content to quote a few predictable texts from the Bible as if these settled the matter. Most seemed unaware that, even if one takes every word of the Bible at its face value, there is

still theological work to be done in translating the wide variety of Biblical teaching into comprehensible and consistent doctrines. Too many people seem stuck with a stark either/or alternative — between either simply repeating Biblical phrases as if these answered all the questions or creating one's own belief more or less regardless of the Bible. Letter after letter that comes through my post simply assumes that these are the alternatives. Somehow we need to escape from this kind of sterile confrontation, whether between fundamentalists and liberals, self-styled "Biblical Christians" or "non-Biblical Christians" — whatever they might be — and acknowledge that we are all trying to take the Bible seriously.

One of the difficulties in interpreting the Bible lies in the fact that different bits of it say different things. Hell is a good example. There are undoubtedly some very direct and terrifying statements. But there are also plenty of passages with a picture of the end as a gathering up of the whole created order in Christ.

Furthermore there are insights into the nature of God derived from the whole story to Christ's death and resurrection and the promise of forgiveness — insights which seem to make the idea of everlasting punishment incompatible with the main thrust of the gospel. The Biblical interpreter has to make sense of all this and more, not because he or she is liberal or conservative, modern or traditionalist but because the questions are there in the Bible itself.

The violence, not to say the virulence, of the things some people say about Hell points to a strong desire to punish and reject. A.N. Wilson in his much-publicised conversion away from Christianity seems to have discovered — rather late — that religion can be dangerous. It can arouse some quite ugly passions. And sometimes the more deeply people feel themselves to be committed, the more ready they are to exclude and condemn those who fail to measure up to their own way of seeing things. Talk of Hell can touch the hellish impulses inside each of us. All of which is another reason for trying to look coolly at what it means.

This is even more important at a time when the upsurge of traditional religion can threaten to bring back unwelcome fears and hatreds alongside more desirable influences. There is a proper fear of God, a proper awe in the face of His holiness.

We need to recognise the dangers of self-centredness, faithlessness and despair. But the paralyzing fear of punishment, which dogged some earlier Christians, has, I believe, no place in the Christian gospel. James Joyce, in revolting as a young man against the famous Jesuit sermon on the terrors of a physical Hell, was surely wiser than his teachers.

who says the defendant confessed. Israeli Druze Arab conscripts give a haphazard translation, omitting chunks of the defendant's Arab testimony and the judge's Hebrew questioning.

Palestinian lawyers complain of problems seeing clients, or even discovering the charges. Files recorded only in Hebrew, routinely go missing. Inside the court, the defence expects little success.

"Out of maybe 1,600 files in my office during the intifada, we managed to get acquittals in 18. Those were purely technical legal faults," said Raji Sourani, a lawyer who heads the Gaza Centre for Rights and Law.

On a recent day behind the barbed-wire and chain-link fence at a court in Gaza City, the blue-garbed prisoners were jammed into the dock. About half had room to sit.

There was nothing unusual about Mr. Sharif's trial, except his brief resistance. The central Gaza court had dealt with 170 cases the day before.

More than 80,000 Palestinians have been arrested since their revolt against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip erupted in 1987. In mid-July, the army reported that it had held more than 9,000 prisoners, a third of them awaiting trial.

"There is no question the system is not swamped the way it was in the early days of the intifada," said an Israeli officer. "The courts adjusted."

The system does process prisoners faster than it once did. And the courts are less crowded in the West Bank than in teeming Gaza. But the military system is in force since Israel's victory in the 1967 Middle East war is a long way off even inside Israel.

One Israeli officer prosecutes, another sits as judge. Usually the only "witness" is an interrogator

"If you refuse and go through the procedures, they will double the sentence," said Mr. Sourani, who has defended Palestinians in the Gaza courts for 14 years. "If a trial lasts five to seven minutes, it is fantastic."

Throughout the Palestinian revolt the numbers in court have risen and sentences have lengthened. But in basic ways the military court system has not changed since 1967. Lawyer Fayed Abu Rahme, who retired in 1983, said he won only a handful of cases in 15 years of appearance.

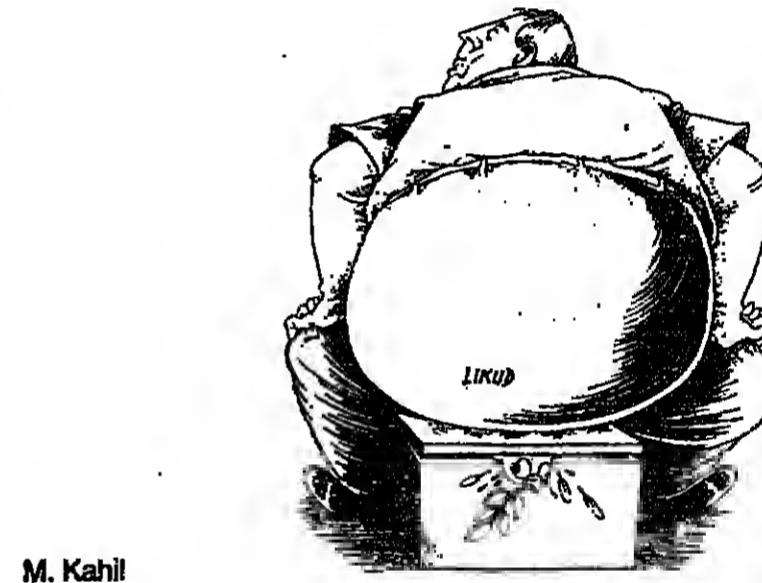
"All the powers the military courts have in the territories are a product of the occupation," said Dan Assan, an Israeli lawyer handling human rights cases. "Therefore military justice cannot be justice as we know it."

Military rule was designed to be temporary, but after 24 years there is no Israeli move to withdraw. The courts' priority is to serve the security forces, not the Palestinian residents.

"This is keeping a minimum of order and law, but they pay a high price in regard to legal proceedings and human rights," said Mr. Assan.

"The solution would be either to decide that we are staying there and build a judicial system that is worth its name — or not to stay and turn over the system to local authorities," he said.

"But I am not optimistic."



Rough, tough justice in Israel for Palestinians

By Jack Redden
Reuters

GAZA — Ibrahim Sharif ignored the judge's advice to plead guilty and accept a sentence of 14 months.

From the dock of an Israeli military court, the Palestinian youth protested that his confession was made under torture.

Defying a warning that false testimony carried a seven-year sentence, Mr. Sharif tried to speak again but was cut off.

In a few minutes the trial was over.

"You wasted court time and didn't take the opportunity given to you," the judge said, and sentenced Mr. Sharif to 21 months for standing watch while other youths wrote graffiti.

Another 27 months was suspended — Mr. Sharif will have to serve it if he is arrested again.

There was nothing unusual

Palestinians want U.S. acknowledgement

(Continued from page 1)

proves our point that the Israelis are irresponsibly working against international law and are not interested in giving up sovereignty over land or water."

About Jerusalemites' participation in peace talks, Mr. Husseini said that "this was not a condition but a fact. Already two of the three of the team

meeting Mr. Baker are from Jerusalem. If no Palestinian from East Jerusalem is allowed to participate in negotiations then no Israeli from West Jerusalem should participate as well."

Asked about the linkage between stopping settlements and the Arab boycott of Israel, Mr. Husseini said: During the Gulf war we heard repeatedly

that aggression should not be rewarded. The settlements are illegal and an aggression as well as an obstacle to peace. Even so we are still wondering whether Israel will accept this very generous Arab position."

Mr. Ashrawi said about the Israelis: "I don't get the feeling that they are going to respond positively. I think that they will continue in their policy of evasion and procrastination."

Baker hopes Israel will accept proposal

(Continued from page 1)

would say that we are speaking of days and not weeks," Mr. Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner told reporters.

Interior Minister Arye Deri said after the cabinet meeting that the usually stern Shamir had been upbeat. "The prime minister is in a good mood today. He himself stressed ... the fundamental change in the Arab stance," Mr. Deri said.

After talks with Mr. Shamir and his senior ministers, Mr. Baker said he had been assured he would receive an Israeli answer soon.

"The prime minister indicated that he would respond shortly to our proposals. I am satisfied that he and his colleagues will consider their position and our proposals carefully and I look forward with great hope to their response," he told reporters.

"I think that this is a moment of historic opportunity. For 43 years, Israel has sought direct negotiations with its neighbours and it has been right to do so."

"And now there is a real

opportunity to get to those face-to-face negotiations. Israel now has Arab partners willing to engage in direct negotiations," Mr. Baker said.

He said he did not plan as yet to return to the region, "but this could depend on the Israeli reply."

Mr. Pazner told a separate news conference: "There are still different problems which we must

consider in the next few days." Mr. Baker said Mr. Shamir rejected an idea endorsed by Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan and backed by the international community of freezing Israeli settlements in the occupied territories in exchange for suspension of the Arab economic boycott of Israel.

Mr. Baker said Mr. Shamir was "not overly enthusiastic and that may be an understatement."

Despite his progress, Mr. Baker still faces formidable obstacles in getting the parties to the bargaining table. He said a formula for Palestinian representation was still not fully agreed.

Mr. Shamir faces difficulties from extreme right-wingers in his ruling coalition in going along with a process which is certain to centre on an Israeli withdrawal from territories it occupied in the 1967 war.

At the cabinet meeting several ministers, including Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, Economics Minister David Magen and Science Minister Yoval Neeman, called for another "no" to U.S. proposals.

Mr. Sharon described Syria's flexibility as tactical rather than substantive.

Israeli commentators said that Mr. Shamir had realised that he had to go along with the plan if he wished to retain Israel's key relationship with its guardian ally, the United States, supplier of \$3 billion in annual aid.

Former Israeli Prime Minister

Menachem Begin, who returned to Egypt for a peace treaty in 1979, said Monday he would object to cutting a similar deal for peace with Syria.

The Golan Heights will always be part of Israel," said Mr. Begin, who resigned in 1983 and was succeeded by Mr. Shamir.

After the meeting between Mr. Baker and the prime minister, Defence Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister David Levy went into session to consider the U.S. proposition.

President Bush and Mr. Baker have not said how much of the occupied Arab territory ought to be returned to the Arabs.

Referring specifically to the Golan Heights, which Syrian President Hafez Al Assad seeks in return for agreeing to talk with Israel, Mr. Baker said: "The United States has not taken a position on borders."

In 1975, then-President Gerald Ford wrote a letter to Yitzhak Rabin, who was prime minister, that said: "The U.S. has not developed a final position on the borders. Should it do so, it will give great weight to Israel's position that any peace agreement with Syria must be predicated on Israel's remaining on the Golan Heights."

The excerpt was published in Israeli newspapers. Asked about it, Mr. Baker said Mr. Ford's promise would be honoured by the Bush administration.

Sharaa

(Continued from page 1)

anniversary of the revolution that ended Egypt's monarchy.

He said Israel must "halt activities which oppose and put obstacles in front of the peace process, primarily its settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories."

On Friday, the Egyptian leader suggested that Arab countries end their boycott of Israel in exchange for suspension of serdem construction in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. Baker applauded the idea, which also was accepted by Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. So far Israel has refused, saying settlements should be negotiated, whereas the boycott is an illegal act of war that should be stopped.

Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon have also agreed to the U.S. peace proposals. They would have the United States and the Soviet Union convene a peace conference, to be attended by the United Nations and Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Iraqi

(Continued from page 1)

want the sanctions strictly enforced until President Saddam Hussein is ousted or steps aside. Iraq has oil reserves of some 100 billion barrels, second only to Saudi Arabia. Oil exports are its economic lifeline.

Prince Sadruddin's report noted that extensive repairs were needed on Iraq's oil industry infrastructure, particularly around the southern port city of Basra, if pre-war production levels were to be restored.

"The mission therefore recommends that Iraq be allowed to import over a four-month period \$1 billion worth of equipment, spare parts and consumable materials to start restoration of the oil sector," the report said.

The U.N. mission found that the two export pipelines running from Iraq to the Mediterranean through Turkey can operate at a daily volume of 1.34 million barrels.

'Stoned' 'Joshi' plays 'ping-pong' in Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "Ping-pong," "stoned," "joshi," "good-bye," "Jerusalem" and "Friday the 13th" — what do they have in common except that one could perhaps come with an improvised phrase to say "Stoned Joshi" said "good-bye" to "ping-pong" in "Jerusalem" on "Friday the 13th."

Very little else indeed, except that they are some of the most common computer viruses found in Jordan in recent months, bringing an international plague, hitherto little-felt in the Kingdom, right into the body and soul of computer systems in the country.

They have created perennial headaches for local computer dealers and users alike, with at least two to three cases surfacing every week.

For the average user of an isolated single-terminal personal computer the problem may not be as grave as that of a commercial bank with multi-terminal stations and a centralised data storage system.

"I don't know what hit my system," said Hussein Odeh, who maintains a personal computer at home. "I was playing a game and all I saw was a sudden flash of rainbow across the screen and then the machine went 'kaput'. I could not get the system going again at all."

It did not pose much of a problem for Mr. Odeh in terms of loss of data since his files had back-up copies in diskettes.

But Nader Al Shawish, a businessman, lost precious data related to bank accounts and

business transactions, leaving him not a very happy man indeed. "I wish I could get my hands on the guy who created whatever it was that turned my files into gibberish" — that was how he translated his frustration. No doubt, a sentiment shared by millions around the world.

Whether Mr. Shawish and others like him could have saved themselves a lot of trouble if they were careful enough not to have used pirated programmes in subject to debate since in most cases there are no foolproof means to diagnose or locate the source of the virus after the damage is been caused.

"Over 600 different types of computer viruses have surfaced around the world, and we in Jordan have come across dozens of them," said Jean-Claude Elias, a leading dealer of computer systems compatible with that of International Business Machines (IBM).

Some of the viruses are relatively harmless in that they could be eliminated without having to lose data stored in hard disks, but "others have no cure at all except to reformat the entire system, which means the loss of all stored data," he said.

"We always advise our clients to keep back-up copies of files in diskettes so that total loss of data could be averted," he added.

"It does not take more than 10 minutes every day to make copies," he noted. "For some people it may be a headache and botheration, but there is no other way to ensure that data is not lost."

George Hodli of Special Systems, the authorised dealers of IBM systems in Jordan, agreed. "There are viruses which hit data

files and there are others which affect programmes," Mr. Hodli said. In these cases there are software tools — scanning and cleaning programmes which can take care of the problem most of the time, but when a virus hits the "absolute sector" of a system — the part of a computer which is not user-controlled — then the only solution is a total reformatting of the entire system, he added.

There are various levels of "formatting" which could be determined only after assessing the damages caused. In some cases, most files could be recovered, but in other cases all data could be completely lost.

But, whether recoverable or not, loss of painfully stored computer data as a result of someone playing out a whim "is not a nice feeling," said Ata Mifleh, a university student. "You feel violated and have an urge to go and bash the face of whoever did it to you. The frustration builds when you understand the helplessness of the situation."

Creating computer virus "is not that difficult" for programmers, and the result of a few hours of work in implanting a virus could result in the loss of years of toil for others, Mr. Elias noted.

The "Friday the 13th" virus, for instance, is programmed to strike at the stroke of midnight of any Friday which happens to be the 13th of the month. It created an international uproar and widespread alert in 1988, and IBM and manufacturers of IBM-compatible systems sought to avert the hit with special software.

The campaign was largely successful in Europe and the Middle East with a few cases reported to

dealers. But within the United States, the virus gobbed up billions and billions of characters stored in data systems which operate on a round-the-clock basis. At least half a dozen banks had to engage additional staff for months to restore some semblance of normality to the state of accounts.

"Good-Bye" is more sinister. Relatively difficult to detect, the virus can pounce on unsuspecting users anytime, anywhere with a "Good-Bye" flash across the computer screen. The entire system is rendered useless in a matter of microseconds.

Mr. Hodli of Special Systems said IBM has answers to most kinds of viruses, but a lot depends on when the presence of a virus is detected and how far it has gone in destroying programme or files.

"As a rule we always provide original software to our clients with guarantees from the manufacturer," he said. "We advise our clients not to use any programme at random and not to be tempted by new programmes."

Exchanging copied programmes is definitely unhealthy, he added.

Mr. Elias, general manager of General Computer Corporation, fully agreed with this and said he adheres to three "cardinal" principles to avoid the problem of viruses:

— Insistence on using original software obtained directly from developers as far as possible;

— Avoiding using any new programmes except after a thorough scanning process to detect viruses if any; and

— Denial of access to computers except for those who are trusted and authorised.

AMMAN - COLOMBO

Non-stop Twice Weekly

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Capriati beats Seles in Pathmark Tennis Classic

MAHWAH New Jersey (AP) — In just one month, Monica Seles has gone from princess to problem child.

First, she dropped out of Wimbledon with leg injuries and mysteriously disappeared for five days.

Upon her return, the 17-year-old pulled out of the Federation Cup and jeopardized her chances to play in the Olympics.

On Sunday, the top-ranked player in women's tennis lost to somebody even younger, and she said, if her match against 15-year-old Jennifer Capriati lasted any longer, she might have packed up and left.

"I didn't expect a lot out of myself coming in here," Seles said, after losing 6-3, 7-5 to Capriati in the Pathmark Tennis Classic final. "I really didn't want to put any pressure on the leg."

There was a lot of pressure on Seles all week. She met the media Thursday for the first time since her withdrawal from Wimbledon and explained that she was suffering from a stress fracture in her left leg. She had a tougher-than-expected semifinal match Friday night against Kathy Rinaldi and did not look in top form against

Capriati.

Seles was fined \$20,000 by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Sunday for participating in a non-sanctioned exhibition too close to a regular event. The fine follows one of \$6,000 by the WTA last month for her withdrawal from Wimbledon.

Pathmark Tournament director John Kroff said he would appeal Seles' fine and that he would pay Capriati's fine for the same offense, \$2,500.

The Federation Cup begins Monday in Nottingham, England.

Seles, who reportedly received a \$200,000 appearance fee, was broken five times in 10 service games. Her shots lacked their usual crispness and she didn't have her usual court quickness.

She even questioned herself as to whether she could continue if the match went to a third set in the 102 F (39 C) heat.

"It would have been hard," she said. "It would have been physically hard for me to take the second set."

Capriati didn't let it reach a third set. She ended a string of

seven consecutive service breaks by getting a lucky roll on a shot off the top of the net in the 11th game to grab a 6-5 lead.

"After I lost serve three times in a row I was hoping to get just one more chance," Capriati said after her first victory over Seles in three tries. "I just wanted to get my first serve in in the next game."

She didn't, but Capriati quickly moved to a 40-15 lead and won when Seles netted a backhand return of serve.

"I feel pretty good," said Capriati, who received at least \$100,000 for playing in the 28-player exhibition. "I thought I had played well. I thought I had played well to beat her."

Capriati, who broke Seles in the fourth game of the first set to take control of the match, received an added \$30,000 for winning the tournament.

Capriati said she didn't see a difference in the way Seles played compared to their first two meetings. She seemed annoyed at the inquisition that her victory was somewhat tainted because she beat a sub-par Seles.

Agassi retains Washington title

WASHINGTON (R) — Andre Agassi retained his Washington Classic Tournament title Sunday by beating Petra Korda of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 6-4.

The American star won his second tournament of the year by dominating the 12th seeded Korda with powerful groundstrokes and service in the 65 minute match.

"If I'm serving well, I consider the battle over," said the top

seeded Agassi, who won 21 of 25 points on serve in the first set. "My return is the best part of my game, and I know that I'll break my opponent's serve some time or another."

Agassi never lost his serve. He broke serve in the sixth game of the first set and again in the fifth game of the final set.

Agassi, 21, collected \$77,000 for his 14th career singles title. Korda earned his largest career

paycheck of \$41,000.

Korda was fatigued after scoring long upset wins earlier in the week over third-seeded Brad Gilbert and fifth-seeded Derrick Roslagni, both of the United States.

"I was one-half second slower than yesterday, and this cost me a lot of balls, especially on my returns," said the 69th ranked Korda.

Argentina wins Copa America

SANTIAGO, Chile (R) — World Cup runners-up Argentina, showing they can play good football without Maradona, defeated Colombia 2-1 in the Copa America finals Sunday to become South American soccer champions.

Defending champions Brazil beat Chile 2-0 in an earlier match to take second place in the 10-nation tournament, with host Chile third.

Fielding only three World Cup holdovers, Argentina played rapid offensive football that won them six out of seven matches with just one draw.

Powered in midfield by Rodriguez, Argentina pounded Colombia in the first half with attacks by World Cup forward Caniggia and Boca Juniors striker Batistuta, the tournament's top scorer with six goals.

Simeone headed in Argentina's first goal in the 10th minute from a centre by left-wing Basualdo who received a pass from Rodriguez.

A cross by Rodriguez sent Batistuta clear into the area and the long-haired striker beat goalkeeper Higuita with a powerful low kick for Argentina's second

goal on the 19th.

Argentina settled back in the second half and Colombia took the initiative after two changes.

Redin for Rincon and Valencia in the final of the Stuttgart men's tournament.

Stich, playing in his first tournament on German soil since

winning the Wimbledon crown, took time to find his rhythm in the 1-6, 7-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory.

Tour de France enters final week

ALÈS, France (AP) — The last week of the Tour de France is usually Lemond time. This year, time is running out for Lemond.

The three-time Tour de France winner usually gets stronger as the other riders weaken. He's won the last two tours with last-day and next-to-last day efforts.

This time around, though, people are saving Lemond already has lost the tour.

Lemond lost his shield of invincibil-

ity in the mountain stage last week when he faltered and lagged more than seven minutes behind in the second of two Pyrenees stages. That put him in fifth where he has stayed, 5:08 behind Spain's Miguel Indurain.

Lemond has found it hard to recuperate after his exhausting day and blood tests revealed a higher-than-normal white blood cell count.

Lemond refused to call it an excuse.

"I was fatigued and extremely dehydrated," said Lemond, who suffered passes reporters to a car from his Z Team following the stage.

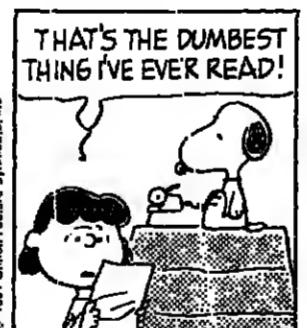
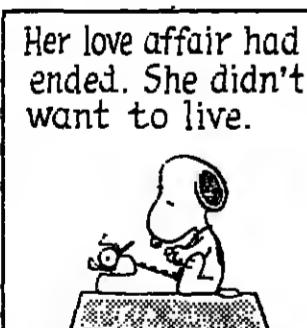
Stich had a wretched start against the Argentine Davis Cup player. After only 18 minutes he was 0-5 down with his serve spluttering and his backhand failing to find the court.

Mancini, the world number 35 and in the third Grand Prix final of his career, took the first set with precision passing shots as Stich rushed the net.

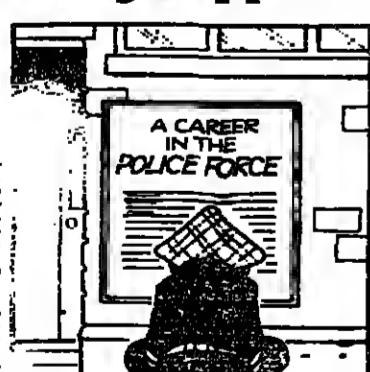
The breakthrough came for Stich in the eighth game of the

second set when, with his serve and concentration returning, he broke Mancini to pull level at 4-4.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Mazin Al Sager of Al Jazireh leads an offensive against Al Ramtha's defense in the game which

ended 1-0 for Al Ramtha. (Photo By Abdullah Ayoub)

Al Qadissiya humbles Al Faisali 2-0

By Ahmad Ismail
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Faisali, the title

holders, received the first shock in the Premier League when they lost 2-0 against Al Qadissiya in their 5th stage match at Al Hussein Sports City.

Al Qadissiya dominated most of the game and deserved the win. Their relentless pressure paid off when Khalid Awad and Firas Al Khalilah created more scoring chances inside the box, but their moves were in vain.

Al Faisali fell from the top spot after Al Wahdat's convincing 2-0 victory over Al Jazireh to regain the lead with 10 points. Al Faisali has 8 points. Al Ramtha, who had missed the Asian Clubs

Tournament in Bangladesh, were back into contention following their 2-0 win over Al Hussein.

Muwaqqaf Abu Hidheh put Al Ramtha 1-0 up in the first half from a fast counter and came back to score again with a little help from his team-mate Salim Dhiyabat to make it 2-0.

Al Jeel dropped a valuable point when it was held to a goalless draw against Al Arabi. Hamad Sawqar missed a penalty for Al Jeel Thursday at Al Hussein Sports City. At the same time, Al Hussein will play against Al Ahli at the Irbid Stadium.

Al Ahli and Al Karmel faced a goalless draw in their ill-tempered match Saturday at Irbid stadium. Both teams missed several opportunities to score especially in the second half when

Al Karmel goalkeeper just managed to save a header by Nart Yadaj on the line.

Al Wahdat striker Jihad Abdul Munem leads the top scorers table with six goals.

The 6th stage of the Premier League will begin Wednesday with several important games. Al Arabi faces Al Karmel at Irbid Stadium. Al Jazireh, seeking the first win in the competition, meets Al Jeel Thursday at Al Hussein Sports City. At the same time, Al Hussein

will play against Al Ahli at the Irbid Stadium.

Al Ramtha hosts arch-rivals Al Faisali Friday in Irbid, whereas Al Wahdat is expected to easily defend its top sport against Al Karmel Saturday in Irbid.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Africa could host 2006 World Cup

STUTTGART, Germany (R) — Wimbledon champion Michael Stich won his second Grand Prix tournament in two weeks when he recovered from a poor start to beat Argentina's Alberto Mancini in the final of the Stuttgart men's tournament.

Stich, playing in his first tournament on German soil since winning the Wimbledon crown, took time to find his rhythm in the 1-6, 7-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory.

It was the third Grand Prix title of his career and the first tournament victory of any kind on clay for the 22-year-old who has emerged from the shadow of his countryman Boris Becker and is now ranked third in the world.

Stich had a wretched start against the Argentine Davis Cup player. After only 18 minutes he was 0-5 down with his serve spluttering and his backhand failing to find the court.

Mancini, the world number 35 and in the third Grand Prix final of his career, took the first set with precision passing shots as Stich rushed the net.

The breakthrough came for Stich in the eighth game of the second set when, with his serve and concentration returning, he broke Mancini to pull level at 4-4.

Top athletics stars line up in Italy

SESTRIERE, Italy (R) — Leroy Burrell, Carl Lewis and Sergei Bubka will compete on July 31 in the Sestriere Athletics Meeting

where a world record will be rewarded with a Ferrari Testarossa sports car. The organisers said Sunday Burrell would run the 100 metres, for which he set a world record in June, and fellow American Lewis would take part in the long jump. Injury last year scuppered Lewis's plans to compete in the rarified air of this Italian ski resort 2,000 metres above sea level and challenge Bob Beamon's 1968 world long jump mark of 8.90 metres. Bubka broke his seventh world record of the year when he cleared 6.09 metres in the pole vault on Italian soil in Formia on July 8.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JULY 22, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: On this first day of Leo as the Moon trines Mercury positive influences prevail and you will succeed unless you try to force issues or attempt any hasty or impetuous ideas.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Pay bills, make collections, mortgages, wills, get insurance, banking, joint obligations rightly handled and they are easy to do.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take some time out now to confer with associates so you can arrive at a much better understanding with them and reconcile with opponents.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you have some project to do that you like but have not been able to finish you do not have a better day than today in which to do it.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get that appointment where you have such a good time and then quickly finish projects so you have as much time as possible to enjoy yourself.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can take a good look at your residence and see what is necessary in order to have things more as you wish to have them at this important place.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Travelling or making plans to expand your interests is excellent now whether it be in the flesh, the mind or spirit so think big and be big.

Capricorn: (December 22 to January 21) Get out to social affairs and in the joy of mutual pleasant time seek from others what they can do to help you gain a cherished longing.

Aquarius: (January 22 to February 19) If you have any sort of desire to achieve it in the outside world this is your day to get in touch with those able to help you gain your ambition.

Pisces: (February 20 to March 20) Travelling or making plans to expand your interests is excellent now whether it be in the flesh, the mind or spirit so think big and be big.

Scorpio: (October 23 to November 21) This is your moment to really study whatever you do not understand so you can have an additional assurance when you go after some ambition.

Capricorn: (December 22 to January 21) Get out to social affairs and in the joy of mutual pleasant time seek from others what they can do to help you gain a cherished longing.

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Pisces: (

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
in co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 19/7/91	TOKYO CLOSE 22/7/91			
Sterling Pound	1.6945	1.6865			
Deutsche Mark	1.7475	1.7523			
Swiss Franc	1.5115	1.5143			
French Franc	5.9315	5.9722			
Japanese Yen	136.40	130.65			
European Currency Unit	1.1165	1.1650			
USD per SGD	1.4090	1.4090			
Interest rates	Date: 22/7/91				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	5.81	6.00	6.25	6.55	
Sterling Pound	10.93	10.81	10.88	10.68	
Deutsche Mark	8.75	9.05	9.18	9.37	
Swiss Franc	7.68	7.81	7.81	7.75	
French Franc	9.12	9.18	9.25	9.43	
Japanese Yen	7.37	7.46	7.31	7.21	
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.68	9.90	9.87	
Interest rate for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent					
Previous Metals	Date: 22/7/91				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²
Gold	370.45	7.10	Silver	3.41	.10
24 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin	Date: 22/7/91				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	.685	.687			
Sterling Pound	1.1554	1.1512			
Deutsche Mark	.3907	.3927			
Swiss Franc	.4520	.4543			
French Franc	.1151	.1157			
Japanese Yen	.5013	.5038			
Dutch Guilder	.3470	.3487			
Swedish Krona	.1084	.1089			
Italian Lira ³	.0525	.0528			
Belgian Franc	.01905	.01915			
Per 100					
Other Currencies	Date: 22/7/91				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.7800	1.7900			
Lebanese Lira ⁴	.0760	.0780			
Saudi Riyal	.1823	.1830			
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-			
Qatari Riyal	.1850	.1860			
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2025			
Omani Riyal	.17450	.17900			
UAE Dirham	.1850	.1860			
Greek Drachma ⁵	.3500	.3660			
Cypriot Pound	.14000	.14200			
Per 100					
CADS Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	20/7/91 Close	21/7/91 Close			
All-Share	110.88	111.03			
Banking Sector	106.01	106.28			
Insurance Sector	119.45	119.58			
Industry Sector	115.54	115.51			
Services Sector	127.17	127.42			
December 31, 1990 = 100					

Report finds Third World youth hardest hit by global recession

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The global recession of the past few years has taken a harsh toll on youth, threatening to turn them into a "lost generation" by the turn of the century, a labour report has said.

"The year 2000 could become year zero for a lost generation of young workers unless there are immediate policies adopted to improve job prospects," said the report, issued by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

The group represents 100 million workers from 103 nations.

To reverse the trend, the trade union group urged public work programmes favouring youth employment and called on governments around the world to improve training and education.

The union said young workers make up 20 per cent of the workforce, but in the Third World, between 27 and 73 per cent of the under-25 generation is out of work.

"The problem of youth unemployment will aggravate an already perilous situation on both sides of the North-South divide," said the report entitled "The World Economic Situation — Prospects for Youth."

The report said that in Asia

only half of the youth are expected to find jobs by the turn of the century.

The report, which will be discussed at the ICFTU's world youth rally in Kingston, Jamaica, Aug. 12-16, warned that fleeing rural areas to cities will do ambitious youngsters little good in developing nations.

Cities are "strained beyond their capacity to provide the infrastructure or employment required," it said.

It noted cities like Mexico City and New Delhi already have thousands of unemployed youngsters, many of whom have no alternative to begging or looking for food among garbage.

Those who find work are mostly reduced to "an unproductive, poorly paid, and insecure job in the growing informal sector," the ICFTU asserted.

"They have a choice ranging from domestic service and the retail trade all the way down to shoving shoes and scavenging cigarette butts," the summary said.

Migration to industrialised nations rarely offers a solution since the market for unskilled labour there cannot absorb the demand, the report said.

U.N. environment fund to disburse \$275m this year

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — A new United Nations environment fund expects to channel \$275 million to around 25 development projects in poor countries by the end of the year, a World Bank official has said.

Ian Johnson, World Bank administrator of the global environmental facility (GEF), said additional financing from the World Bank and other institutions should increase total funding of the projects to around \$700 million.

The GEF was set up last November by the World Bank, the U.N. Development Fund (UNDP) and the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP) as a three-year pilot scheme to help poor countries meet the cost of tackling global environmental issues.

Mr. Johnson said 25 countries, including eight developing nations, had so far contributed a total of \$1.5 billion. Only countries with a per-head yearly income averaging \$4,000 or less qualify for funding.

"The GEF, while large at \$1.5 billion, is small relative to the tasks at hand," Mr. Johnson told an international conference on marine pollution in Brussels.

The 25 projects to be financed this year will focus largely on protection of biological diversity but also include schemes to tackle global warming through changes

in energy use and projects to protect the River Danube and watercourses in China.

Mr. Johnson said protecting the environment at least economic cost involved not only additional finance but also changes in regulations and economic policy — for example, ending the under-pricing of water to reduce problems caused by overuse.

"Funds saved may be more important than funds spent," he said.

The World Bank has also announced that it will end support for logging in tropical forests, a practice environmentalists say destroys forests and endangers the livelihood of people.

Michel Petit, a Frenchman who heads the bank's agriculture department, said it will pay special attention to 20 countries that account for 85 acres of rain forest out of every 100. They are also countries where the forests are endangered. Among them are Brazil, Mexico, the Ivory Coast, India, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Tropical rain forests are prized not only for the food, rubber and other commercial products that come from them but especially for their vast variety of plants, birds, animals and insects. Scientists see these as an important source of new medicines and other chemicals which, once destroyed, can never be revived.

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Kuwait plans to merge banks

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti government plans to merge heavily indebted state-controlled commercial banks to save them from financial ruin. Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan said in an interview.

Sheikh Rodhan told the newspaper Al Watan the government was also thinking of allowing foreign banks into the emirate.

Consolidating the banking system was part of a government programme to streamline the state sector and wind up companies that had made huge losses, he said.

Cities are "strained beyond their capacity to provide the infrastructure or employment required," it said.

It noted cities like Mexico City and New Delhi already have thousands of unemployed youngsters, many of whom have no alternative to begging or looking for food among garbage.

Those who find work are mostly reduced to "an unproductive, poorly paid, and insecure job in the growing informal sector," the ICFTU asserted.

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ANC: Vlok resignation not enough

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) said Monday the resignation of Law And Order Minister Adriean Vlok would not be enough to defuse a row over secret state funding of its political rivals.

"We want an independent judicial inquiry into all secret spending — the government has a slush fund of 380 million rand (\$1.27 million)," ANC spokeswoman Gill Marcus said.

Mr. Vlok, in a televised interview Sunday night, said he was considering resigning after the Weekly Mail newspaper and the London Guardian revealed that the government had made secret payments to the Inkatha Freedom Party, the ANC's main rival.

Mr. Vlok said a total of about 1.5 million rand (\$500,000) was spent over six years to support Inkatha and an allied trade union, the United Workers' Union of South Africa.

"Vlok's resignation is something we've demanded for a long

time, but it should not be restricted to him," Ms. Marcus said. "In itself it would not be enough to repair relations between us and the government."

She said Defence Minister Magnus Malan and Foreign Minister Piko Botha should also be investigated to ascertain how they had spent other secret funds.

"We want a full public inquiry into the 380 million rand," she said, citing allegations of secret state hit squads and Defence Department involvement in township massacres.

About 5,000 blacks have been killed in clashes between Inkatha and the ANC in the last four years, which ANC leader Nelson Mandela says were stoked by a "third force." He also accuses security forces of siding with Inkatha.

Mr. Botha said at the weekend his ministry had paid for two Inkatha Freedom Party rallies in 1989 and 1990 as part of attempts to combat sanctions.

Many white South Africans believe that Inkatha, led by Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, would protect their economic and political interests if it came to power in a post-apartheid South Africa.

When the payments to Inkatha and the United Workers' Union were revealed last Friday, Mr. Mandela demanded the resignations of Mr. Vlok and Mr. Malan and said power-sharing talks with President F.W. de Klerk were in jeopardy.

South African newspapers urged Mr. De Klerk Monday to act quickly to restore credibility, and even pro-government editors said explanations for the Inkatha payments did not hold water.

"Supporters of the government did not expect that it would make its (negotiations) task even more difficult by shooting itself in the foot," said the Afrikaans daily Beeld.

"The anti-sanctions cloak behind which the government is

hiding is very thin," it said, adding that the revelations gave credence to allegations that police and Inkatha colluded in township violence.

The widely-read Star, referring to Mr. Vlok's assertion that the funding was a closed chapter, commented: "He was never been more wrong in his life. The book has only just been opened."

In an editorial headlined "it won't wash," the financial daily Business Day said it was clear that despite government denials the payments were intended to support Inkatha against the ANC, South Africa's main black opposition group.

"If De Klerk is to fight back, he must start by restoring government's integrity," it said.

The black-leadership Sowetan said Mr. De Klerk should not underestimate the magnitude of the crisis.

"If he tries a cover-up this time, his standing in the eyes of the majority of blacks will be ruined."

Pakistan Army chief fears Indian attack



Mirza Aslam Beg

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's army chief of staff said he is concerned that India, unable to quell Muslim unrest in the border area of Jammu And Kashmir, might attack Pakistan, a military spokesman said Monday.

"It is quite likely that in sheer desperation India could launch an adventure against Pakistan," army Chief-Of-Staff Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg reportedly said in an address to soldiers during a weekend tour of eastern Punjab province, which borders India.

Gen. Beg is scheduled to retire next month.

India and Pakistan have twice gone to war over Kashmir, a former princely state divided between Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan after the subcontinent was partitioned in 1947.

"Events are fast changing in the region and the shadows of war have started appearing," Beg said in a statement distributed by the state-owned Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

arming and training the militants, who freely cross the ceasefire line separating the two countries.

Pakistan denies the charges, but supports the militants' right of self-determination.

"The freedom struggle of the people of Kashmir is gaining momentum with every passing day and it is now impossible to suppress it," Gen. Beg said according to APP.

Gen. Beg also claimed that India would seek help from Israel.

"India would not be alone in its adventures against Pakistan. It would be aided by others who are franticly out to harm and destabilise Pakistan," Gen. Beg said.

Gen. Beg described the six Israeli tourists seized in June by Muslim militants in Indian-held Kashmir as "Israeli commandos." Five of the tourists escaped the militants and one of the Israelis was killed when he jumped a guard to help free the group.

COLUMN

Demi Moore gives birth to a girl

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress Demi Moore, who created a stir by posing pregnant and nude on a magazine cover, has given birth to a girl weighing three kilograms. A spokesman has said, Moore, 28, married to actor Bruce Willis, 36, had a healthy baby, Scout Lee Willis, Saturday, said spokesman Paul Block. The picture of Moore, obscured only by carefully placed hands, is on the cover of *Vanity Fair* led to the magazine being sold in a white wrapper, in parts of the United States. Some retailers refused to stock the edition, but others placed extra orders.

Tasmanian skulls return home

HOBART (R) — Eleven aboriginal skulls — one of them thought to be that of the last full-blooded aborigine from the Australian island state of Tasmania — have been returned by India to Tasmania.

"We are prepared to work with the ASEAN nations and dialogue partners to launch a cooperative programme to attack the noxious narcotics trade that lures, degrades and kills our people," Mr. Zoellick said.

"Undeveloped and undemocratic, Burma will poison the region with narcotics and remain a cancer of instability," U.S. Undersecretary of State Robert Zoellick said.

"In Burma, tyranny still prevails over the popular will," he told the annual meeting of foreign ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and their seven main trading or "dialogue" partners.

He said the United States would participate in a conference on coordinated drugs strategy, which could include joint enforcement, exchange of intelligence, extradition agreements and control over the flow of drugs money.

A major source of heroin is the poppy-growing Golden Triangle area straddling Thailand, Laos and Burma, where the military government refused to hand over power to representatives popularly elected last year.

Meanwhile Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama called Monday for a new security forum to be set up in the Asia-Pacific region, saying doubts remained

U.S. plans to join Asia in drugs war

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — The United States, concerned about Burma as a drug source, plans to launch a joint anti-drugs campaign with South East Asian nations, a senior U.S. official said Monday.

"We are prepared to work with the ASEAN nations and dialogue partners to launch a cooperative programme to attack the noxious narcotics trade that lures, degrades and kills our people," Mr. Zoellick said.

"The three-day meeting between ASEAN — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — and dialogue partners Canada, the United States, the European Community, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea began Monday.

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START treaty sets stage for big debate over missile defences

WASHINGTON (AP) — Completion of a historic U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms reduction treaty sets the stage for a potentially explosive debate over an issue that could unravel the new treaty: The U.S. anti-missile defence plan.

The Soviets have said for years that if the United States put into operation a Star Wars system capable of shooting down Soviet missiles they would consider pulling out of the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks, or START, which led to the new treaty.

The Soviet fear is that a U.S. defence, currently prohibited by another treaty in effect since 1972, would require in response a new buildup of Soviet offensive missiles — exactly the weapons they agreed to reduce by about 35 per cent in the START treaty.

In the United States' view, both superpowers could make a cooperative transition from offensive forces to mainly defensive ones, although it would require either revising or scrapping the treaty that prohibits defences.

The Soviet threat to withdraw from START has held little public attention recently, mainly because the arms talks were bogged down and Congress had been slashing the Star Wars development budget and refusing to approve building such a system.

The Senate plan calls for initially building only ground-based missiles capable of shooting down long-range ballistic missiles. That would comply with the 1972 antiballistic missile (ABM) treaty, which prohibits any missile defence other than a system of 100 ground-based interceptors at a single site.

But the Senate bill also calls for negotiations with the Soviet by 1996 on modifying the ABM treaty to permit an expanded ground-based missile defence. It puts the idea of space-based weaponry on the back burner, but provides research money for that area.

The House version of the 1992 defence bill is tougher on Strategic defence. It includes none of the \$650 million the administration wants for research on the space-based component,

and it does not authorise building even a ground-based system. It essentially kills the Star Wars idea while accelerating work on a system to defend against small, short-range missiles.

The administration has not said whether it would accept the Senate version, but administration

officials have said they are pleased that at least it gives a go-ahead to build defences.

The logic behind the Senate plan is that, after spending more than \$20 billion studying Strategic Defence, it's time to build something that would at least give the United States a limited means of defending itself against missile attack.

Critics say a limited ground-based defensive system might be wise. But they worry that this would be only a first step toward an expanded, space-based system that would cost unknown billions of dollars and destroy the ABM treaty.

The new treaty, which could take effect as early as 1992, is to be implemented over seven years and would be binding for 15 years.

The Bush administration, echoing the Reagan administration before it, asserts that the Soviets will not withdraw from the START deal because they will eventually accept the U.S. argument that missile defences are good for both sides.

Earlier this month, however, the Pentagon's annual report to Congress on U.S. missile defence research said no evidence could be found in Soviet media or official statements that the government was likely to change its mind about space-based defences.

That suggests that either the administration will have to settle instead for a modest ground-based system, or it will have to squeeze tens of billions more dollars out of Congress for Star Wars and risk having the Soviets dump the only treaty constraining nuclear arms.

START treaty sets stage for big debate over missile defences

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In many department stores, customers pay a few rubles for chances to win scarce items like imported beer, French cognac and Western cigarettes.

Legal lottery tickets are sold on Moscow street corners. Cars and appliances are the big prizes; smaller ones include French perfume and toys.

Gaming tables for rubles, legal and illegal, also have sprung up.

For Soviets like Siran, who spoke on condition his surname be withheld, the real action is in dollars. Most are the new rich, entrepreneurs who have made fortunes because of President Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reforms.

Siran, an Armenian living in Moscow, would not reveal the source of his money. He said the only Moscow casino he had not

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Legal lottery tickets are sold on Moscow street corners. Cars and appliances are the big prizes; smaller ones include French perfume and toys.

Gaming tables for rubles, legal and illegal, also have sprung up.

For Soviets like Siran, who spoke on condition his surname be withheld, the real action is in dollars. Most are the new rich, entrepreneurs who have made fortunes because of President Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reforms.

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